

REMARKS

Applicant has reviewed and considered the Office Action mailed on May 18, 2005, and the references cited therewith.

Claims 1 and 7 have been amended and claim 5 has been canceled herein. As a result, claims 1-4, 6-17, 19-35, and 40-43 are now pending in this application.

§102 Rejection of the Claims

Claim 1 was rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by Haub et. al (U.S. 5,861,853). Claim 1 has been amended to include the subject matter of previous dependent claim 5 and previous dependent claim 5 has been canceled. In the Office Action of May 18, 2005, the Examiner indicated that claim 5 would be allowable if rewritten to include all of the limitations of claim 1. Therefore, it is submitted that claim 1 is now allowable.

§103 Rejection of the Claims

Claim 9 was rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Haub et. al (U.S. 5,861,853) in view of Yamada et. al (U.S. 6,570,469).

Claim 9 is a dependent claim that depends directly from independent claim 1. Consequently, claim 9 is allowable for at least the same reasons as independent claim 1.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 2, 4, 5 and 7 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but were indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

As described above, claim 1 has been amended to include all of the limitations of previous dependent claim 5. Dependent claim 5 has been canceled. Therefore, claim 1 is now allowable. Claims 2, 4, and 7 are dependent claims that depend directly from claim 1. Consequently, these claims are allowable for at least the same reasons as independent claim 1. In addition, these claims each provide further basis for patentability as indicated by the Examiner.

Claims 3, 6, 8, 10-17, 19-35, and 40-43 were allowed.

Conclusion

Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance and notification to that effect is earnestly requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone Applicant's attorney (480-948-3745) to facilitate prosecution of this application.

If necessary, please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-2359.

Respectfully submitted,

LUIZ M. FRANCA-NETO ET AL.

By their Representatives,

CUSTOMER NUMBER: 45643

480-948-3745

Date

7/12/05

By

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CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail, in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner of Patents, P.O.Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on this 13 day of July, 2005.

MEREDITH MESCHER

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Signature